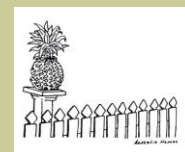


Saxe Gotha Dispatch



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Friends of the Museum Fundraiser a Success

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum hosted its annual fundraiser on Saturday February 2nd at Lexington's Town Hall. The fundraiser celebrated the 100th anniversary of the construction of Lexington's old High School. Lexington's High School was opened in 1912 and was located near where Lexington Elementary is today on North Lake Drive. The first graduating class featured twelve students, eleven females and one male. The school added eleventh grade in 1922 and twelfth grade in 1948. The original building was torn down in 1988.

Around 220 people enjoyed food, drinks, dancing, and fellowship at the event. Graduates of Lexington's schools as well as former and



current employees gathered and reminisced about the schools. Mr. Joe Bedenbaugh, former principal, delighted the crowd with stories from his tenure. Melissa Rawl, the current principal also spoke about her tenure. The program ended with the singing of the alma mater led by Constance Caractor Fleming. All

funds raised go toward the restoration of outbuildings at the museum and the enhancement of exhibits.

The Friends have raised over \$270,000 to support museum projects since the group's beginning in 1997. To learn more about how to help, contact the museum.

Museum Upcoming Outreach Efforts

The museum will have a table set up at Lexington's Kids Day Festival, which will be held off Main Street on April 27. The museum staff will allow children to

dip candles and hear stories from Lexington's history.

Museum director J.R. Fennell is scheduled to speak at the Lexington Network of Female

Executives on March 26. Fennell will give a presentation on the superstitions of the Germans and Swiss Germans in Lexington and the Dutch Fork.

Meet the Museum's Newest Employee



"The addition of Trish Shandor will help the museum go from a good museum to a great museum"

The Lexington County Museum welcomes Patricia Shandor as the new Visitor Services Coordinator. Trish replaces Bonnie Hix, who worked for 16 years and retired last December. Trish started working at the museum at the beginning of January, and in addition to scheduling school groups, she has the added responsibility of artifact care. She earned a Masters Degree in Public History from the University of South Carolina and a Bachelors Degree in History from Furman University. She has worked at several local museums including McKissick Museum and Historic Columbia Foundation. Prior to accepting the position at our museum she worked as a decorative arts specialist at Charlton Hall Galleries for five years

where she gained valuable experience with artifact identification. She brings to the museum knowledge of artifact care and identification. Her immediate goals for the museum are the processing of newly accessioned items, the implementation of new educational programs and updates to current programs. Her long-term goals for the museum include conducting a complete inventory of all museum objects and the digitization of object records. An ongoing project that she and the director would like to implement is the rotation of some of the objects currently on display in the buildings and exhibits. The staff hopes to bring some of the lesser-known treasures out of museum storage to encourage more repeat visits. Overall

the staff is excited to be working with Trish and the direction that the museum is headed.

Museum Acquires Five Historic Quilts

The Lexington County Museum acquired five historic quilts in January 2013. These quilts, which are in great condition, were all made by Ida and Shellie Ellisor, sisters from the Dutch Fork who never married and lived to be around 100. These quilts

were all made in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and were included in a 1980s survey of historically significant SC quilts.

These quilts feature patterns such as sawtooth, flying geese,

and a crazy quilt. These beautiful artifacts will enhance the museum's already noteworthy collection of historic quilts from Lexington County. Visit the museum to see these and other great artifacts.

Museum to Hold Annual Spring Open House

The Lexington County Museum will host its Annual Spring Open House on May 5, 2012 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

The public is invited to see the ca. 1832 John Fox House, the 1771 Laurence Corley Log House, the ca. 1815 Oak Grove Schoolhouse, and some new additions as well. The Museum will have

many of its artifacts, including historic rifles made in Lexington County in the first half of the 19th century by the Quattlebaum and Hall families, on display and will also have a newly restored bedroom in the Fox House on exhibit. The rooms formerly held exhibit cases but have now been restored to their original use as bedrooms.

This event is free to the public. Light refreshments will be served. The Open House is a great time for visitors to learn more about the museum and the county's history. It also gives visitors the opportunity to explore buildings not normally featured on the typical hour long tour.



Museum and the Town Create Cell Phone Tour

The Town of Lexington partnered with the Lexington County Museum to create a cell phone walking tour, which was unveiled in December 2012. This tour allows visitors and town residents alike to take a tour of Lexington's historic downtown at any time. The town has erected signs around the downtown area that

feature a telephone number. Callers then dial the corresponding number which will allow them to hear a recorded message telling information about a nearby structure and a little about the history of the town. The narration features many of the town's leading citizens, who often added their personal stories to the

narration as well. The tour will allow people to discover more about the history of Lexington and some of the historic structures downtown while giving tourists something fun to do. The number to call to access the tour, which begins at the old courthouse, is 803-358-7264.

"The tour will allow people to discover more about the history of Lexington and some of the historic structures downtown while giving tourists something fun to do."

Herb Festival at the Lexington County Museum

The Lexington County Herb Bunch will hold its second "It's All About Herbs" festival at the Lexington County Museum on Saturday, April 13 from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. This year's festival will include plants

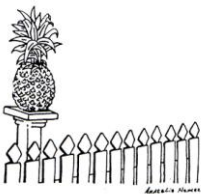
(herbs) for sale, mini herbal demonstrations, 3 seminars (Herb Container Gardening, Culinary Herbs, and Tea Talk), an Afternoon Tea Time, and local food and craft vendors. Admission to each of the seminars is \$5

and there will be a \$10 admission fee for the Afternoon Tea Time. Proceeds from the festival will go toward a second scholarship for a qualified Lexington County student majoring in the field of horticulture.

**Lexington
County Museum**
231 Fox Street
Lexington, SC 29072

Phone 803-359-8369
Fax 803-808-2160
E-mail museum@lex-co.com

*Gateway to
Yesterday*



We're on the Web!
www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum

The Lexington County Museum was started in 1970 to collect, preserve and present the history of Lexington County. After initially having only one historic house, the museum expanded and now has thirty historic structures over seven acres in downtown Lexington. Through exhibits in historic houses, the museum interprets everyday life in the town of Lexington and throughout Lexington County from the eighteenth century to the start of the Civil War. The museum offers guided tours to visitors for a small fee and has thirteen different hands-on programs for school groups free of charge by appointment. These programs attract schools from around the state and educate students about the history of Lexington County and about the everyday life of Lexington County residents in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Friends of the Lexington County Museum is a non-profit group founded in 1997 with an advisory board, officers, and a board of trustees representing all municipalities in Lexington County. Its mission is to enhance the Lexington County Museum through its duly appointed commission and to support, aid, and assist in the improvement and expansion of the Museum. The Friends group sponsors fund-raising projects to help further the Museum's valuable contribution to the county, including the project described below. The Friends group has raised over \$270,000 for the museum so far. To learn more about the Friends or to join, visit the museum's webpage (www.lex-co.sc.gov/museum).

Lexington County Museum Launches Newsletter

This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Lexington County Museum! The staff members of the museum are excited about the opportunities that a newsletter gives us and we hope that you enjoy reading it. We launched this newsletter as a way to better keep in touch with members of the Friends of the Lexington County Museum and those just interested in the museum. The newsletter will also allow us to advertise the events that are happening at the

museum, such as the open houses and the herb festival and just get the word out about new acquisitions. The museum couldn't have done this without the help of Amanda Benjamin Dubose in Lexington County's Information Services Department. Thanks Amanda!

If you'd like to unsubscribe from the museum's mailing list, please send an email to me at JRFennell@lex-co.com. If you have any questions or want more

information about anything you read in the newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us. I encourage you to also visit our Facebook page for updates on the museum and to check out our "artifact of the week." Each week we select a different artifact to highlight. Thanks for reading!